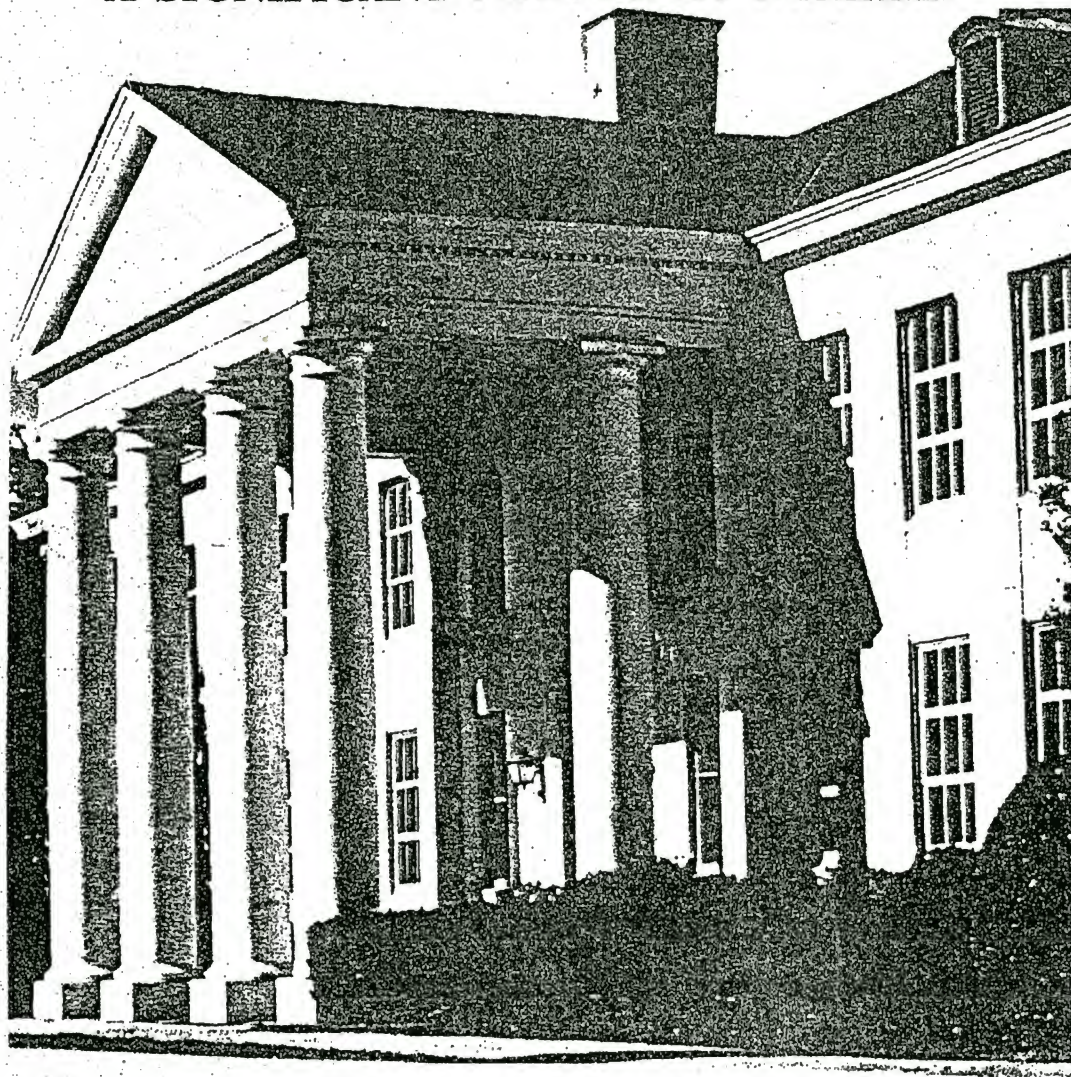


**THE BUILDINGS OF DILLARD UNIVERSITY
and
THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THOSE
MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE ENERGIES
AND ABILITIES HAVE BEEN
A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR AT DILLARD**



by

*Dillard University
Will W. Alexander Library
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122*



WILL W. ALEXANDER
1884 - 1956

Reverend Alexander was born near Morrisville, Missouri and was the son of William Baxter Alexander and Arbella A. Winton. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Scarritt Morrisville College in 1908, and his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University in 1912. In 1914 Reverend Alexander married Mabelle A. Kinkead. Alexander's pastoral experience aroused his interest in the problems of race and poverty. In 1919 he took a leading part in founding the commission on Interracial Cooperation, and served as director during its twenty five year existence. While still acting as executive director of the Interracial Commission, Alexander did much to initiate and guide the program of fellowships established by the Rosenwald Fund. At the same time he took an interest in the colleges and universities which comprise the Atlanta University Center. He was one of the planners and the acting president of Dillard University from 1931-1936. The University Library is named in honor of Rev. Will W. Alexander.



ALEXANDER PRIESTLY CAMPHOR
1865 - 1919

Bishop Alexander Priestly Camphor was born in Soniat, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. He was an American educator, missionary, and bishop. Bishop Camphor attended Leland University, 1879 - 1880 and New Orleans University, 1880 - 1882. He received his theological training at Gammon Theological Seminary. From 1889 to 1893, Alexander Camphor was professor of mathematics at New Orleans University. He went to Liberia in 1897 and served as President of the College of West Africa, Monrovia, until 1907. He also served as United States Vice Consul for Liberia. Camphor was a highly respected and influential figure in the church in the early 1900's. He was also the author of Missionary Story Sketches. He died in Orange, New Jersey and was buried in New Orleans, Louisiana. **Camphor Hall**, the Male Dormitory, is named in honor of Bishop Alexander Priestly Camphor.



JOHN JACOB COSS
1884-1940

Dr. Coss was born in Lima, Ohio. He graduated from Wabash College in 1906. He received his Master of Arts and Doctor of Law degrees from Columbia University. Dr. Coss taught at Columbia University from 1911 to 1939. He was a member of the board of trustees at Dillard University, Morehouse College, The American Institute for Iranian Art and Archeology, and the Rosenwald Fund. Coss Hall is named in honor of Dr. John J. Coss.



ALBERT W. DENT
1904-1984

Dr. Dent received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in 1926. In 1932 he was elected superintendent of Flint-Goodridge Hospital. Dr. Dent served as president of Dillard University from 1940 to 1969. During his administration Dillard's Physical Plant increased by the addition of the Will W. Alexander Library, the Lawless Chapel, faculty housing, and other developments. The endowment was increased to \$3,347,000. In 1944 Dillard University under Dr. Dent's leadership became a charter member of the United Negro College Fund, and in 1958 was admitted to membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The University gymnasium is named in honor of Dr. Dent.



JAMES HARDY DILLARD
1856 - 1940

Dr. James Hardy Dillard was born at the family home, "Farmer's Delight" in Nansemond County, Virginia. He was the only child of James and Sarah Brownrigg (Cross) Dillard. His father, a Princeton graduate, was deeply interested in humanity and had misgivings about slavery. Dillard entered Washington and Lee University, where he came under the influence of the professor of history and English literature, Colonel William Preston Johnson, who later became president of Tulane University. Dillard graduated from Washington and Lee in 1876, with highest honors. In 1891, his former teacher, Colonel Johnson called him to become professor of Latin at Tulane University where he later became dean of the academic colleges.

Dr. Dillard emphasized the importance of the Christian attitude of brotherhood and service and believed that these, together with adequate education, could solve most social problems. He was a "bridge builder" between different groups and interests. He spent the latter years of his life in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he died of congestive heart failure induced in 1940. Dillard University is named after James Hardy Dillard.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS HALL
1898 - 1982

Dr. Frederick Douglass Hall was an educator and composer. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, Bachelor of Music degree from Chicago Music College and the Masters of Arts degree and Doctor of Music Education from Columbia University Teachers College. He was on the faculties of several colleges, including Dillard University, 1936 - 1941 and 1960 - 1974, and Alabama State College 1941 - 1955. While at Dillard he led a male quartet known variously as the Frederick Hall Quartet and the Dillard University Quartet which later became famous as the Delta Rhythm Boys. He also wrote the music for "Fair Dillard", the University's alma mater.



JOSEPH CRANE HARTZELL
1842 - 1928

Joseph Hartzell was a Missionary Bishop for the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was the fourth of thirteen children of Michael Bash and Nancy Worman. Hartzell received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1868, and the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Garrett Institute. He succeeded John Philip Newman as pastor of the Ames Church in New Orleans. In 1873 he was made presiding elder of the New Orleans district. While residing in New Orleans he established several schools and a hospital for blacks. From 1876 to 1896 Hartzell was a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church. From 1883 to 1896 he was with the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society. In 1896 he was consecrated missionary bishop of Africa. On his eighty-six birthday he was assaulted by robbers in his home and died three months later from the effects of his injuries. Hartzell Hall, Junior and Senior Female Dormitory, is named in honor of Joseph Crane Hartzell.



MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON
1866-1955

Mr. Henson was born August 8, 1866 in Charles County, MD., of poor parents. Left an orphan at the age of eight years, he married Lucy Jane Ross, September 5, 1907; educated a few years at N. St. School, Washington D. C.; first and only Negro to reach the North Pole, April 6, 1908. He began a life of adventure at the age of nine as a cabin boy on the sailing vessel, Katie Hines.

Matthew Henson was an explorer and co-discover of the North pole. In 1887, Lt. Robert Peary hired Henson to accompany him on a trip to survey a canal route through Nicaragua. After this venture, Henson accompanied Peary on other explorations, including the historic first expedition to the North Pole in 1909. After the expedition, Henson was ignored and forgotten and was forced to find work as a parking attendant. Bills to grant him a federal pension as a reward for his Artic explorations were stalled in Congress four times. He published an autobiography in 1912 entitled "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole." Henson died of a cerebral hemorrhage and survived by his widow, Lucy Jane Ross Henson a sister, Eliza Carter. Henson Hall is named in honor of Mr. Matthew Alexander Henson.



ALVIN PIKE HOWARD
1889 - 1937

Mr. Howard was born in New Orleans on May 20, 1889, son of Frank T. Howard and Emma Cora Pike. In 1910, he received the Bachelor of Philosophy degree from Yale University. He began teaching at Tulane University in 1914. In 1914, he married Laura Moore Hayward. In addition to publishing and banking, he accumulated wide experience in the cotton business and in securities. From 1924 to 1927 he was president of the Hibernia Mortgage Company; and in 1933 he was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee and a Director of the Hibernia National Bank. Much of his life was devoted to activities other than business. He gave liberally of both time and money to the development of Dillard University and its affiliate Flint Goodrich Hospital. Howard House is named in honor of Mr. Alvin Pike Howard.



WARREN KEARNY
1870 - 1947

Mr. Kearny was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and was the son of J. Watts Kearny and Sarah Palfrey. He attended Tulane University and at The University of the South. In 1894 he married Ellen Lee Sloo Johnson. They had two children, Warren Watts and Ellen Lee. In 1940 Warren Watts married Mrs. Mary Nelison Carpender. He was in business with his father and admitted to the firm of J. Watts Kearny and sons. He was on the board of directors for Hibernia National Bank, Times Picayune Publishing Company, New Orleans North Eastern Railways, and Mississippi Shipping Company. Kearny was a trustee for Dillard University and the University Of The South. He was on the membership committee for Flint-Goodridge Hospital. He died on November 8, 1947 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Kearny Hall is named in honor of Mr. Warren Kearny.



ALFRED LAWLESS
1872 - 1933

Reverend Lawless was born in Thibodaux, Louisiana and received his Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Divinity degree from Straight College. In 1904, he founded Beecher Memorial Congregational Church. In May, 1911 Reverend Lawless requested the use of one room in the Miro Street School to conduct summer classes which would be financed by light donations from the pupils. The school board refused his request. Nevertheless, Reverend Lawless continued to strive for better educational opportunities and facilities for blacks. His effort created the Seventh Ward Educational League, an organization which endorsed his aims in the field of education. Reverend Alfred Lawless, Jr. died September 9, 1933 in Atlanta, and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, New Orleans. The University Chapel is named in honor of Dr. Alfred Lawless.



THEODORE K. LAWLESS
1892-1971

Dr. Lawless was a dermatologist, and was the son of Reverend Alfred Lawless. He was born in Thibodaux, Louisiana and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Talladega College and his Doctor of Medicine degree from Northwestern University School of Medicine. Dr. Lawless served as instructor at Northwestern University School of Medicine from 1924 to 1941. He received numerous honors and high awards for his achievements, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP) Spingarn Medal in 1954. The University Chapel is named in honor of Dr. Theodore K. Lawless.



WILLIAM STUART NELSON
1895 - 1977

Dr. William Stuart Nelson was elected the first president of the "New" Dillard University on March 17, 1936 and assumed office July 15, 1936. Inaugurated on April 9, 1937, Dr. Nelson served until 1940 when he resigned to return to Howard University as dean of the school of religion. While president of Dillard, Dr. Nelson wrote the words to "Fair Dillard", the University's alma mater. Dr. Nelson received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University, and the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale University. He did additional study at Union Theological Seminary in New York and at the Sorbonne in Paris. Dr. Nelson was the first black president of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and served in that capacity until his appointment at Dillard. He founded The Journal Of Religious Thought. A man with a deep commitment to nonviolence, Dr. Nelson was a friend of Mahatma Gandhi and the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He walked with both men in protest marches. During the 1940's the American Friend Service Committee sent Dr. Nelson and his wife, Blanche, on a special mission to India to try to reconcile Moslem and Hindu Communities.



JULIUS ROSENWALD
1862 - 1932

Mr. Rosenwald was a merchant and philanthropist. He was the son of Samuel Rosenwald and Augusta Hammerslough Rosenwald. He was educated in the public schools of Springfield, Illinois, and in 1879 began his career with Hammerslough Brothers. From 1895 to 1910, Rosenwald was vice president and treasurer of Sears, Roebuck, and Company; from 1910 to 1925 president; and until his death, chairman of the board of directors. On April 8, 1890 he married Augusta Nusbaum of Chicago, who died May 23, 1929; to this union were born five children, two sons and three daughters. On January 8, 1930 he married Adelaide (Ran) Goodkind, his eldest son's mother-in-law. Rosenwald is remembered as a philanthropist and humanitarian. As a member of the American Jewish Committee, he helped to protect the Jews against unjust discrimination. Through his far-sightedness, the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City were put on a firm financial footing. His philanthropies transcended the prejudices of race, creed, country, and nationality. His contributions to work for the advancement of blacks were doubtless the outstanding feature of his philanthropy. Like Booker T. Washington, he felt that the salvation of blacks lay in education. Rosenwald Hall is named in honor of Mr. Julius Rosenwald.



EDGAR BLOOM STERN
1886 - 1959

Mr. Stern was born in New Orleans on January 23, 1886 and was the son of Maurice Stern and Hanna Bloom Stern. He became a prominent financier and philanthropist of New Orleans. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree and his Master of Arts degree from Harvard University. Mr. Stern was married on June 29, 1921 to Edith Rosenwald who became his devoted companion in philanthropic dedication and in civic, cultural and political science promotions. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for Tuskegee Institute. Mr. Stern served as president of the Board of Trustees for Dillard University and Flint-Goodridge Hospital. Through the American Jewish Committee, he worked for human rights. In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Stern made gifts totaling more than \$210,000.00 to Dillard, Harvard and Tulane Universities. Their three children; Edgar Bloom Stern, Jr., Audrey Stern Hess, and Philip M. Stern continued the family tradition of philanthropy. He died on August 24, 1959 while visiting his son. Stern Hall is named in honor of Mr. Edgar Bloom Stern.



SEYMOUR STRAIGHT

1815 - 1896

Mr. Seymour Straight was a loyal friend and benefactor of the American Missionary Association. When Straight College opened in 1869, Seymour Straight was appointed President of the Board of Trustees. He held that position until his death. Mr. Straight was also a member of the New Orleans City Council. Straight Hall, the Female Dormitory, is named in honor of Mr. Seymour Straight.



FANNIE C. WILLIAMS
1882 - 1980

Miss Fannie C. Williams was born March 23, 1882, in Biloxi, Mississippi. She came to New Orleans at an early age to attend Straight College, which is now Dillard University. In 1920 she received two baccalaureate degrees (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Pedagogy from Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University)). In 1938 she received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Michigan. She pursued additional study at Columbia University and Ohio State. From 1908 to 1917 Miss Williams was an elementary school teacher in New Orleans. In 1921, she was appointed principal of Valena C. Jones Elementary School and served for 33 years (1921 - 1954), until her retirement in 1954. Miss Williams was a pioneer in the field of Negro education. In the 1930s, she opened a nursery school and kindergarten, and in the 1940s, she initiated the parents study group. She was a trustee of Straight College until it became Dillard University and then she served on the Dillard board from 1936 to 1960, as a representative of the American Missionary Association. Williams Hall, the Freshman Female Dormitory, is named in honor of Miss Fannie C. Williams.